Mail In Review

Perform Mail In Review

1 Introduction

As a reviewer, your service is very important to the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science (SC) and to the research community. We know that you are very busy, and we appreciate the time it takes to participate in the review process.

The purpose of this document is to provide step-by-step instructions for users to follow to complete a Mail In Review.

2 Prerequisites

Before you can complete a Mail In Review task, the following criterion must be met:

· You have received an email notification that you have a Mail In Review task.

3 Completing a Mail In Review

Use the following steps to access and complete a Mail In Review.

3.1 Accessing the Mail In Review Task

Use the following steps to access the Mail In Review task.

3.1.1 Existing Account

Use the following steps to access the Mail In Review task if the user has an existing PAMS account.

1. PAMS will send you email notification requesting your participation in a Mail In Review. Follow the Mail In Review link provided in the email. (Figure 1)

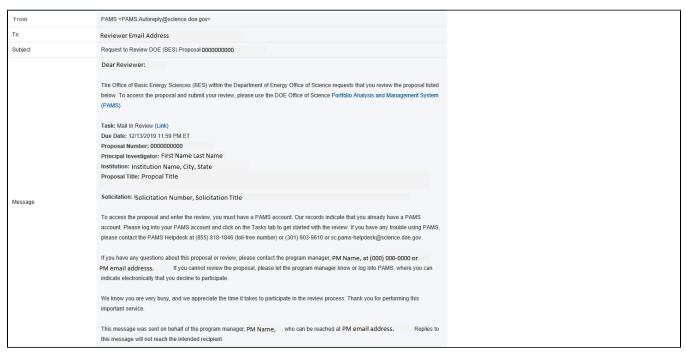


Figure 1. Request to Review DOE Proposal – Existing Account

OR

Log in to the PAMS external website at: https://pamspublic.science.energy.gov/webpamsepsexternal/login.aspx (Figure 2)

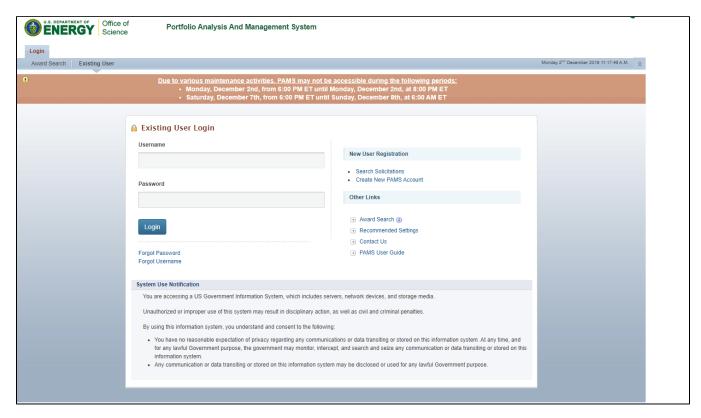


Figure 2. Existing User Login

2. Upon logging in you will navigate to the PAMS Home Page. Click **Review Proposal(s)** under the section entitled Tasks Assigned to you on the left side of your screen. (Figure 3)

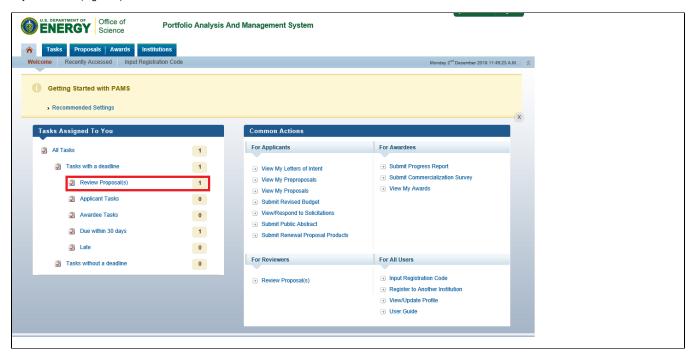


Figure 3. PAMS Homepage - Review Proposal(s)

3. Your Pending Tasks will be displayed. To begin your Mail In Review click Start Review from the Options Column on the right. (Figure 4)

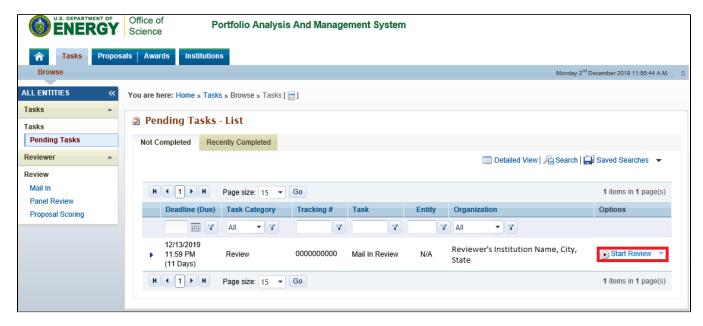
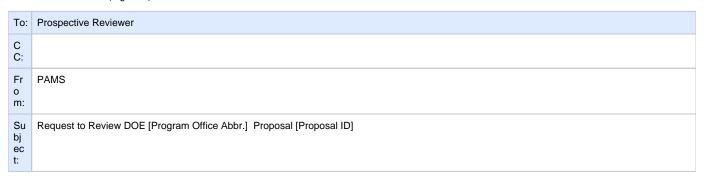


Figure 4. Pending Tasks - List Page

3.1.2 No Existing Account

Use the following steps to access the Mail In Review task if you do not have an existing PAMS account.

1. PAMS will send you an email notification indicating that DOE has requested your participation in a Mail In Review, and provide a registration link and code. Click the **PAMS** (Figure 5)



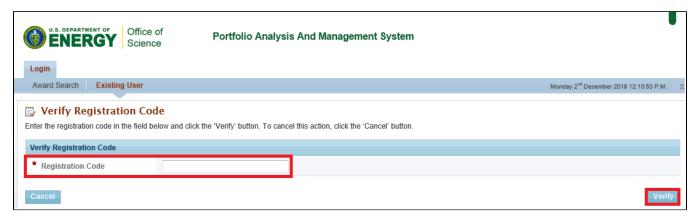
Dear [Reviewer Prefix] [Reviewer First Name] [Reviewer Last Name]: es sa ge: The [Program Office] [Program Office Abbr.] within the Department of Energy Office of Science requests that you review the proposal listed below. To access the proposal and submit your review, please use the DOE Office of Science Portfolio Analysis and Management System (PAMS). Task: Mail In Review Due Date: [Task Due Date] Proposal Number: [Proposal ID] Principal Investigator: [PI Prefix] [PI First Name] [PI Last Name] Institution: [Institution Name] Proposal Title: [Proposal Title] Solicitation: [Solicitation Number], [Solicitation Title] To access the proposal and enter the review, you must have a PAMS account. Our records indicate that you do not yet have a PAMS account. Please register in PAMS using the link and registration code provided below to create your account. **URL: PAMS** Registration Code: [Registration Code] The first time you access PAMS, you must use the URL and registration code provided above or you will not be connected to this proposal review task. For subsequent logins, you may access PAMS using your already established username and password. After logging into PAMS, click on the Tasks tab to get started with the review. If you have any trouble using PAMS, please contact the PAMS Helpdesk at [PAMS Helpdesk Phone Number] or [PAMS Helpdesk Email]. If you have any questions about this proposal or review, please contact the program manager, [PM Prefix] [PM First Name] [PM Last Name], at [PM's Phone Number] or [PM's Email]. If you cannot review the proposal, please let the program manager know or log into PAMS, where you can indicate electronically that you decline to participate. We know you are very busy, and we appreciate the time it takes to participate in the review process. Thank you for performing this important This message was sent on behalf of the program manager, [PM Prefix] [PM First Name] [PM Last Name], who can be reached at [PM's Email].

Figure 5. Request to Review DOE Proposal - No Existing Account

Replies to this message will not reach the intended recipient.

Μ

2. Enter the Registration Code on the Verify Registration Code page, and click Verify in the bottom right corner of the page. (Figure 6)



- 3. Complete the account creation process. (See How To Guide Create External Account)
- 4. Begin at Step 2 in section 1.1 Existing Account to access the Mail In Review after creating the account.

3.2 Completing the Conflict of Interest (COI) Declaration Statement

For each review assignment in PAMS, you will be required to complete a Conflict of Interest Declaration Statement before you can proceed to the review. You have three options: "I have no Conflict of Interest in reviewing the proposal", "I have a Conflict of Interest in reviewing the proposal". Use the following steps to complete the Conflict of Interest Declaration.

1. You will be presented with the Proposal Review – Conflict of Interest Certificate upon accessing the review. You may view the Proposal Abstract to help determine if you have a Conflict of Interest. To do so, click the **Proposal Abstract** link (*Figure* 7).

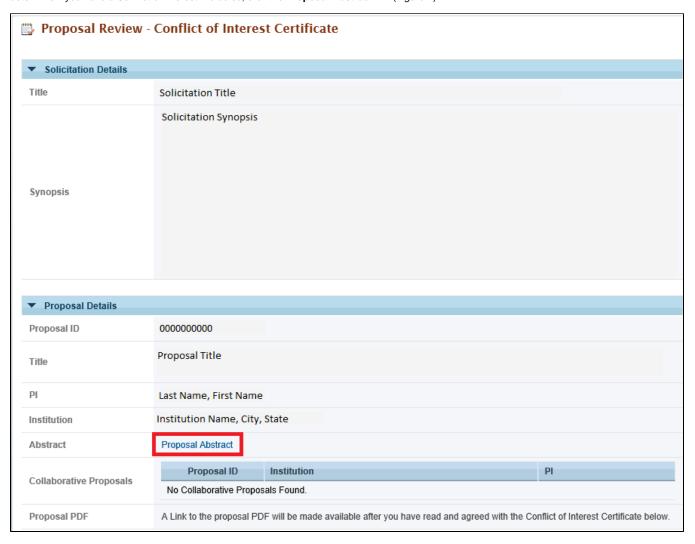


Figure 7. Proposal Review - Conflict of Interest Certificate - Public Abstract

2. Read the Information on Conflict of Interest and Information on Confidentiality thoroughly to ensure that you have no conflicts of interest with the information provided. (Figure 8)

Conflict Of Interest Certificate

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY OFFICE OF SCIENCE CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND CONFIDENTIALITY CERTIFICATE

Information on Conflict of Interest

The DOE Office of Science has a policy that individuals with a conflict of interest cannot participate in the merit review of a proposal for funding. You may not participate in the review of any proposal involving a particular matter that would have a direct and predictable effect on any person, company or organization with which you have a relationship (defined below), financial or otherwise. The interests of your spouse; your minor child; your general partner; any organization in which you serve as officer, director, trustee, general partner, or employee; and any person or organization with whom you are negotiating employment, are attributed to you. Further, you may not participate in the review of any proposal involving a particular person or a particular matter that you believe would cause a reasonable person with knowledge of the relevant facts to question your impartiality.

Prior to participating as a merit reviewer, please disclose to the program manager whether you have any actual or perceived conflicts of interest with such duties. In addition, please disclose that you have an actual or perceived conflict of interest as soon as you become aware of it. For reviewers who are Federal employees, the conflict of interest statutes and regulations that apply in regular Government employment apply for participants in the review of an application or proposal.

Please do not disclose any information concerning the assessment and analysis or the content of proposals, either during the proceedings of the merit review or at any subsequent time, to anyone who is not authorized access to the information by the DOE Office of Science or by law or regulation, and then only to the extent that such information is required in connection with such person's official responsibilities.

Listed below are examples of potential conflicts of interest:

- 1. Affiliation with an applicant institution.
 - . Current employment at the institution as member of the scientific staff, professor, adjunct professor, visiting professor, or similar position.
 - Current employment or are being considered for employment at the institution.
 - Any formal or informal re-employment arrangement with the institution.
 - . Current membership on a visiting committee or similar body at the institution.
 - . Ownership of the institution's securities or other evidences of debt.
 - Any office, governing board membership, or relevant committee chairpersonship in the institution.
 - · Current enrollment as a student.
 - Received and retained an honorarium or award from the institution within the last 12 months.

2. Relationships with an investigator, project director, or other person who has a personal interest in the proposal or other application.

- Known family or marriage relationship.
- Business or professional partnership.
- . Employment at the same institution within the last 12 months.
- · Past or present association as thesis advisor or thesis student.
- Past or present association as postdoctoral advisor or postdoc.
- Collaboration on a project or on a book, article, report, or paper within the last 4 years. (If publication with more than ten authors are the norm for your scientific field, only relationships with individuals in the core group with whom you interacted on a regular basis while the research was being done are covered.)
- 3. Other affiliations or relationships.
 - Interests of the following persons are to be treated as if they were yours: any affiliation or relationship of your spouse, of your minor child, or a relative living in your immediate household or of anyone who is legally your partner that you are aware of and that would be covered by Items 1 or 2 above.
 - . Any other relationship, such as close personal friendship, that you think might tend to affect your judgments or be seen as doing so by a reasonable person familiar with the relationship.

Information on Confidentiality

The DOE Office of Science receives proposals in confidence and protects the confidentiality of their contents. For this reason, you must not copy, quote from, or otherwise use or disclose to anyone, including your graduate students or postdoctoral or research associates, any material from any proposal you are asked to review. When you have completed your review, please be certain to destroy the paper copy of the proposal and/or delete any electronic correspondence or files related to the proposal.

The DOE Office of Science keeps reviews and your identity as a reviewer of specific proposals confidential to the maximum extent possible, except that we may send to Principal Investigators (Pls) the reviews of their own proposals without reviewer names and affiliations. In addition, selected proposals and peer reviews, including reviewer names and affiliations, may be shared with an outside Committee of Visitors established to assess the quality of the peer review process. Members of COVs sign confidentiality agreements before participated, and are not given access to reviews of their own proposals in which they collaborated or participated, or of proposals from their institution. Please respect the confidentiality of all Pls and of other reviewers. Do not disclose their identities, the content of discussions in a merit review panel, or other details about the merit review of proposals. Please remember that the contents of the proposal are legally proprietary information of the author and his/her institution and should not be used outside the context of proposal evaluation.

These provisions are consistent with and do not supersede, conflict with, or otherwise alter the employee obligations, rights, or liabilities created by existing statute or Executive order relating to (1) classified information, (2) communications to Congress, (3) the reporting to an Inspector General of a violation of any law, rule, or regulation, or mismanagement, a gross waste of funds, an abuse of authority, or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety, or (4) any other whistleblower protection. The definitions, requirements, obligations, rights, sanctions, and liabilities created by controlling Executive orders and statutory provisions are incorporated into this agreement and are controlling.

Certification

The certification below must be completed by individuals prior to their participation in the merit review process

- 1. I will not participate in the review of any proposal involving a particular matter that would have a direct and predictable effect on any person, company or organization with which I have a relationship, financial or otherwise. For purposes of this statement, the interests of my spouse, my minor child, my general partner, any organization in which I serve as officer, director, trustee, general partner, or employee, and any person or organization with whom I am negotiating employment, are attributed to me.
- 2. Further I will not participate in the review of any proposal involving a particular person or a particular matter that I believe would cause a reasonable person with knowledge of the relevant facts to question my impartiality.
- Impariants.

 3. Prior to my participation as a merit reviewer, I will disclose any actual or perceived conflicts of interest that I may have with such duties. In addition, I agree to disclose any actual or perceived conflicts of interest as soon as I am aware of the conflict.

I have no Conflict of Interest in reviewing the proposal. I have a Conflict of Interest in reviewing the proposal.	
O I do not wish to review the proposal.	
▼ Comments	
Approximately 1 page (i) (Max 2000 Characters): 2000 Characters left.	
Note: Comments entered here will be shared with DOE SC Program Manage	er via email.

- 3. PAMS will present you with three options at the bottom of the page. Select the radio button next to the appropriate option (Figure 8):
- a. I have no conflict of interest in reviewing the proposal. Select this option if you do not have any of the conflicts listed in the Conflict of Interest statement, and you would like to proceed with the review.
- b. I have a conflict of interest in reviewing the proposal. Select this option if you have a conflict of interest with some aspect of the proposal. Selection of this option will close the review task for you and notify the PM.
- c. I do not wish to review the proposal. Select this option if you do not have a Conflict of Interest but do not wish to review the proposal. Selection of this option will close the review task and notify the PM.
- 4. Although not required you can enter any comments that you want relayed to the Program Manager via email.
- 5. Once you have made your Conflict of Interest designation click Save and Continue at the bottom of the page to proceed.



If you declared a Conflict of Interest or declined to review the proposal by accident, contact the PM to have the task reopened for you.

6. If you did not declare a Conflict of Interest and later find that you do have a Conflict of Interest, you can declare your conflict from the **Resources** header by clicking the **Additional** tab and selecting **Conflict of Interest**. (Figure 9)



Figure 9. Resources Header - Additional - Conflict of Interest

7. This will take you to the Conflict of Interest page. Your original declaration will be selected, but you may change that selection to "I have a conflict of interest with reviewing this proposal." (Figure 10)

Conflict Of Interest Certificate

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Prior to participating as a merit reviewer, please disclose to the program manager whether you have any actual or perceived conflicts of interest with such duties. In addition, please disclose that you have an actual or perceived conflict of interest as soon as you become aware of it. For reviewers who are Federal employees, the conflict of interest statutes and regulations that apply in regular Government employment apply for participants in the review of an application or proposal.

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Listed below are examples of potential conflicts of interest:

- 1. Affiliation with an applicant institution.
 - . Current employment at the institution as member of the scientific staff, professor, adjunct professor, visiting professor, or similar position.
 - Current employment or are being considered for employment at the institution.
 - Any formal or informal re-employment arrangement with the institution.
 - . Current membership on a visiting committee or similar body at the institution.
 - . Ownership of the institution's securities or other evidences of debt.
 - Any office, governing board membership, or relevant committee chairpersonship in the institution.
 - · Current enrollment as a student.
 - Received and retained an honorarium or award from the institution within the last 12 months.

2. Relationships with an investigator, project director, or other person who has a personal interest in the proposal or other application.

- Known family or marriage relationship.
- Business or professional partnership.
- . Employment at the same institution within the last 12 months.
- · Past or present association as thesis advisor or thesis student.
- Past or present association as postdoctoral advisor or postdoc.
- Collaboration on a project or on a book, article, report, or paper within the last 4 years. (If publication with more than ten authors are the norm for your scientific field, only relationships with individuals in the core group with whom you interacted on a regular basis while the research was being done are covered.)
- 3. Other affiliations or relationships.
 - Interests of the following persons are to be treated as if they were yours: any affiliation or relationship of your spouse, of your minor child, or a relative living in your immediate household or of anyone who is legally your partner that you are aware of and that would be covered by Items 1 or 2 above.
 - . Any other relationship, such as close personal friendship, that you think might tend to affect your judgments or be seen as doing so by a reasonable person familiar with the relationship.

Information on Confidentiality

The DOE Office of Science receives proposals in confidence and protects the confidentiality of their contents. For this reason, you must not copy, quote from, or otherwise use or disclose to anyone, including your graduate students or postdoctoral or research associates, any material from any proposal you are asked to review. When you have completed your review, please be certain to destroy the paper copy of the proposal and/or delete any electronic correspondence or files related to the proposal.

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Certification

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- 1. I will not participate in the review of any proposal involving a particular matter that would have a direct and predictable effect on any person, company or organization with which I have a relationship, financial or otherwise. For purposes of this statement, the interests of my spouse, my minor child, my general partner, any organization in which I serve as officer, director, trustee, general partner, or employee, and any person or organization with whom I am negotiating employment, are attributed to me.
- 2. Further I will not participate in the review of any proposal involving a particular person or a particular matter that I believe would cause a reasonable person with knowledge of the relevant facts to question my impartiality.
- Impariants.

 3. Prior to my participation as a merit reviewer, I will disclose any actual or perceived conflicts of interest that I may have with such duties. In addition, I agree to disclose any actual or perceived conflicts of interest as soon as I am aware of the conflict.

I have no Conflict of Interest in reviewing the proposal. I have a Conflict of Interest in reviewing the proposal.	
O I do not wish to review the proposal.	
▼ Comments	
Approximately 1 page (i) (Max 2000 Characters): 2000 Characters left.	
Note: Comments entered here will be shared with DOE SC Program Manage	er via email.

8. Click Save and Continue when you are finished. This will remove the review task from your tasks list.



Once you have selected "I have no Conflict of Interest in reviewing this proposal" you cannot select "I do not wish to review this proposal". If you wish to decline to review the proposal contact the Program Manager that asked you to review.

3.3 Completing the Review

Use the following steps to enter your comments and complete the review.

1. If you indicated no Conflict of Interest with reviewing the proposal, you will be directed to the reviewer instructions. Read the instructions carefully, and click **Continue** when you are ready to proceed. (Figure 11)

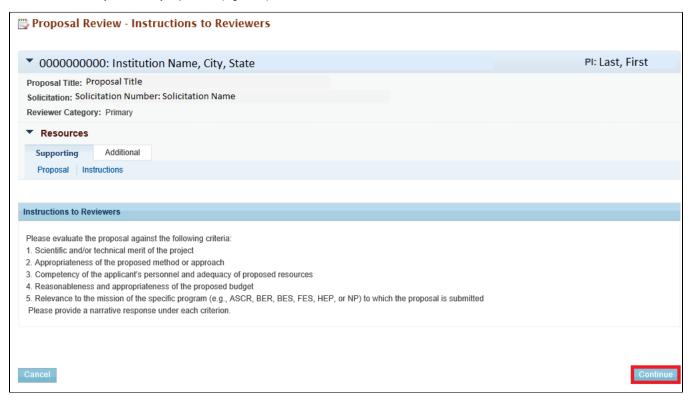


Figure 11. Proposal Review - Instructions to Reviewers

2. To access the full proposal, expand the Resources section of the page and click the **Proposal** (Figure 12). You will be prompted to open the proposal PDF.

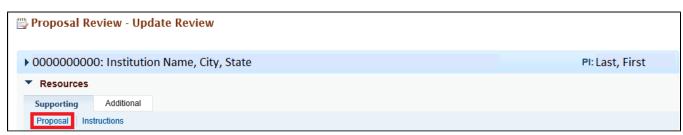


Figure 12. Proposal Review - Update Review, Access Full Proposal



- When a reviewer downloads a Proposal PDF, PAMS will display a "Proposal Downloaded" overlay message stating that the reviewer is
 obligated to keep this Proposal under strict confidence, not to share it with anyone, and to destroy any personal copies after completing
 the review process. PAMS will send an email when the review process ends reminding the reviewer to destroy any personal copies of
 the Proposal PDF.
- This page will Autosave every 10 minutes. If you wish to save more frequently, click the Save button in the bottom right corner of the
 page.
- You may also save your work and return at a later time by clicking Save and then navigating away from the page or logging out of your session. To return to the review task, access your tasks list and click Edit Review to return to the review page.
- 3. PAMS will redirect you to the Proposal Review Update Review page, where you will be shown the evaluation criteria for the review. You may enter your comments and scores, directly on this page. (Figure 13)
- 4. Once you have completed all evaluation criteria and would like to submit your review, click the **Save and Submit** button in the bottom right corner of the page. (Figure 13)

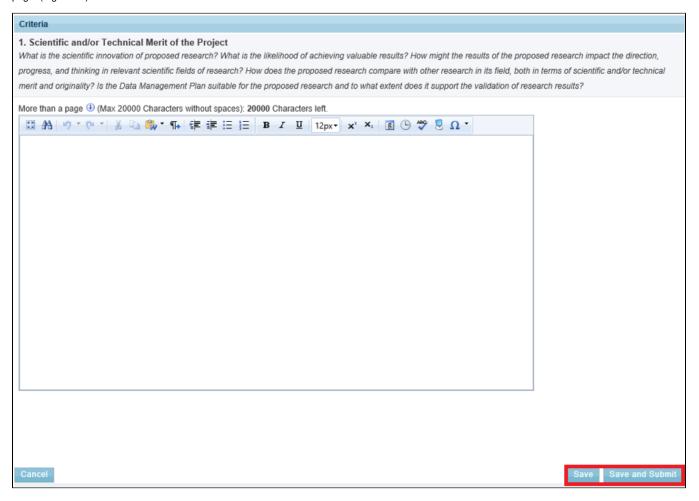


Figure 13. Proposal Review - Review Comments/Score



- Not all Review Tasks will look the same. Review criteria may differ, you may or may not be required to enter comments or scores.
- Do not enter scores into the comment box or reference the scores in your comments.
- 5. PAMS will load the Proposal Review Review Summary page, which displays a read-only copy of the evaluation criteria and your responses. Review the page carefully. When you are ready, confirm your submission by clicking **Confirm** in the bottom right corner of the page. (Figure 14)

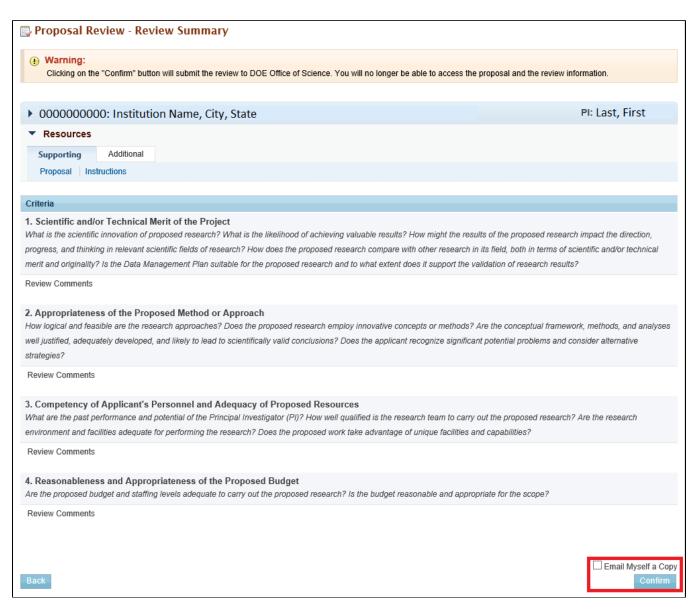


Figure 14. Overall Summary of the Proposal – Confirm



Select "Email Myself a Copy" to have a PDF copy of your review comments emailed to you.

6. You will receive a green Success message indicating that your proposal review was submitted successfully. The review task will be removed from your tasks list. If you need to make changes after you submitted your review, contact the PM to have the task reopened. (Figure 15)



Figure 15. Mail In Reviews – List page – Success Message